UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.237/26/Add.2
10 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE
Seventh session
New York, 15-19(20) March 1993
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

MATTERS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES:

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 11 (FINANCIAL MECHANISM), PARAS. 1-4

Further information on the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Note by the Secretariat

1. A meeting of the Participants of the GEF was held in Rome, Italy, on 4 and 5 March 1993. It was preceded on 3 March by an informal meeting on the replenishment of the GEF. The Chairman informed the Participants' Meeting of the outcome of the discussions on replenishment. The Chairman's summaries of both meetings will be available at the Committee's session.

2. The informal meeting on replenishment reached conclusions on participation by countries in further discussions on replenishment; on the flow of information from these discussions to the GEF Participants' Meetings and to other concerned parties, including INC/FCCC; and on a timetable for these discussions. Four further meetings on replenishment are planned in 1993, concluding in December. The first of these will review funding needs for the GEF during the period 1994-1996. It will take place immediately before the Participants' Meeting that is to be held in Beijing, China, from 26 to 28 May 1993. The discussion paper being prepared as a basis for the assessment of funding needs for the GEF will include an assessment of requirements arising from the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The collaboration of the interim secretariat of the Convention has been sought in this exercise. The Committee may wish to give guidance on this matter and indicate what contribution it might make to the ongoing work on assessment of funding needs. (See A/AC.237/26, paras. 51-54.)

3. At the Participants' Meeting, discussion focused on the arrangements and terms of reference for an evaluation of the pilot phase of the GEF and on the question of decision-making in the future Participants' Assembly. With regard to evaluation, it was agreed to place this exercise under the overall guidance of an independent panel of experts. The chairperson of that panel would report to the GEF Participants through the Chairman of the GEF Participants' Meetings.

4. On decision-making, the Participants reviewed papers outlining different voting schemes aiming to guarantee a balanced and equitable representation of the interests of developing countries and give due weight to the funding efforts of donor countries, consistent with "Agenda 21". The governance criteria set out in Article 11.2 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change were also borne in mind. While all Participants recognized that most decisions in the Participants' Assembly would be taken by Consensus, it was not possible at this meeting to reach agreement on a voting system. The Chairman of the Participants' Meeting is to undertake consultations on this matter, which will be on the agenda of the Beijing meeting.

5. It may be noted that the discussion paper on the voting system for the Participants' Assembly did not seek to specify the special requirements for decisions on questions relating to conventions. These were flagged as matters for further consideration.